

81 cont  
wherein said first inner layer does not comprise an effective amount of a fire retardant agent; and

an outer layer comprising a blend of a crystalline propylene homopolymer or copolymer, a copolymer of ethylene and at least one  $\alpha$ -olefin optionally with a diene, and an agent having fire retardant properties, the ratio of the thicknesses of the outer layer and the inner layer being from 1 to 7.

82  
83. (Amended) A method comprising passing electricity through a cable wherein said cable is a fire-resistant and water-resistant low-voltage electrical cable comprising:

a conductor;

a first inner layer to protect said conductor against water, said first inner layer comprising a crosslinked or uncrosslinked polymer compound containing no halogen, wherein said first inner layer does not comprise an effective amount of a fire retardant agent; and

an outer layer comprising a blend of a crystalline propylene homopolymer or copolymer, a copolymer of ethylene and at least one  $\alpha$ -olefin optionally with a diene, and an agent having fire retardant properties, the ratio of the thicknesses of the outer layer and the inner layer being from 1 to 7.

#### REMARKS

#### STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 53-99 are pending. Claims 68-82 have been withdrawn from consideration. Independent claims 53 and 83 have been amended. No new matter has

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